Title:	**SURFACE WATER SAMPLING**
Category:	ENV 3.12
Revised:	March 1998

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

SURFACE WATER SAMPLING

ecology and environment, inc.
368 Pleasant View Drive / Lancaster, New York 14086 / (716) 684-8060

TITLE:	**SURFACE WATER SAMPLING**
CATEGORY:	ENV 3.12
REVISED:	March 1998

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE:	SURFACE WATER SAMPLING		
CATEGORY:	ENV 3.12	REVISED:	March 1998

1. Introduction

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlines recommended procedures and equipment for the collection of representative liquid samples (aqueous and nonaqueous) from streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, lagoons, and surface impoundments both at the surface and at various depths in the water column. This SOP does not pertain to the collection of groundwater samples.

2. Method Summary

Sampling situations vary widely and therefore, no universal sampling procedure can be recommended. A sampling plan must be completed before any sampling operation is attempted. The sampling plan should include objectives of the study, the number and type of samples required to meet these objectives, and procedures to collect these samples based on site characteristics.

The sampling of both aqueous and nonaqueous liquids from the above-mentioned sources is generally accomplished through the use of one of the following:

- Kemmerer bottle,
- Bacon bomb,
- Dip sampler, or
- Direct method.

These sampling techniques will allow for the collection of representative samples from the majority of surface water types and impoundments encountered.

3. Potential Problems

There are two primary potential problems associated with surface water sampling: cross-contamination of samples, and improper sample collection.

Cross-contamination problems can be eliminated or minimized through the use of dedicated sampling equipment and bottles. If this is not possible or practical, then decontamination of sampling equipment is necessary. See E & E's SOP on *Equipment Decontamination* (ENV 3.15).

Improper sample collection can involve using contaminated equipment, disturbance of stream or impoundment substrate, and sampling in a disturbed area such as that caused by a boat wake. Following proper decontamination procedures and minimizing disturbance of the sample site will minimize or eliminate these problems.

4. Equipment

Equipment needed for collecting surface water samples includes:

- Kemmerer bottle,
- Bacon bomb,
- Dip sampler,
- Line and messengers,
- Sample bottles, preservative, ziploc bags, ice, coolers,
- Chain-of-custody seals and forms, field data sheets,
- Decontamination equipment,
- Protective clothing,
- Maps/plot plan,
- Safety equipment,
- Compass,
- Tape measure,
- Survey stakes, flags, or buoys and anchors,
- Camera and film,
- Logbook, and
- Sample bottle labels.

5. Reagents

Reagents are commonly used to preserve samples and to decontaminate sampling equipment. Appropriate preservation and decontamination procedures should be selected prior to field sampling.

Preservatives commonly used include:

- Nitric acid (HNO_3) for metals analyses,
- Sodium hydroxide (NaOH) for cyanide analysis,
- Sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4) for TRPH analysis, and
- Hydrochloric acid (HCl) for VOC analysis.

Decontamination reagents include:

- Nitric acid (HNO_3),
- Acetone, and
- Deionized or distilled water.

6. Health and Safety

Personal safety is always the most important factor in any sampling operation. Sampling under unknown conditions should always be considered worst case, necessitating the selection of appropriate personal protection.

When sampling lagoons or surface impoundments containing known or suspected hazardous substances, adequate precautions must be taken to ensure the safety of sampling personnel. The sampling team member collecting the sample should not get too close to the edge of the impoundment, where bank failure may cause him/her to lose their balance. The person performing the sampling should be on a lifeline and wearing adequate protective equipment.

When conducting sampling from a boat in an impoundment or flowing waters, appropriate boating safety procedures will be followed.

7. Procedures

7.1 Sampling Considerations

7.1.1 Preparation

Prior to the initiation of any sampling operation, the immediate area should be checked for radioactivity, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), photoionization potential, airborne dust, and explosivity, as required by the Site Safety Plan. The following steps should then be taken:

- Determine the extent of the sampling effort, the sampling methods to be employed, and the equipment and supplies needed;

- Obtain necessary sampling and monitoring equipment;
- Decontaminate or preclean equipment, and ensure that it is in working order;
- Prepare scheduling and coordinate with staff, clients, and regulatory agency, if appropriate; and
- Use stakes, flags, or buoys and anchors to identify and mark all sampling locations. If required, the proposed locations may be adjusted based on site access, property boundaries, and surface obstructions.

7.1.2 Representative Samples

In order to collect a representative sample, the hydrology and morphology of a stream or impoundment should be determined prior to sampling. This will aid in determining the presence of phases or layers in lagoons or impoundments, flow patterns in streams, and appropriate sample locations and depths. Additional information can be found in the references listed in Section 12.

Generally, the deciding factors in the selection of a sampling device for surface water sampling are:

- The depth and flow of surface water body,
- Location from where the sample will be collected, and
- The depth at which the sample(s) is to be collected.

7.1.3 Sampler Composition

The sampling device must be constructed of the appropriate materials. Samplers constructed of glass, stainless steel, PVC, or PFTE (teflon) should be used, depending on the types of analyses to be performed (i.e., samples to be analyzed for metals should not be collected in metallic containers).

7.2 Sample Collection

7.2.1 Kemmerer Bottle

A Kemmerer bottle may be used in most situations where site access is from a boat or structure such as a bridge or pier, and where samples at depth are required. Sampling procedures are as follows:

- Using a properly decontaminated Kemmerer bottle, set the sampling device so that the sampling end pieces are pulled away from the sampling tube, allowing the substance to pass through this tube;

- Slowly lower the preset sampling device to the predetermined depth. Avoid bottom disturbance;

- When the Kemmerer bottle is at the required depth, send down the messenger, closing the sampling device; and

- Retrieve the sampler. Transfer sample to sample container.

7.2.2 Bacon Bomb

This type of sampler may be used in situations similar to those outlined for the Kemmerer bottle. Sampling procedures are as follows:

- Lower the bacon bomb sampler carefully to the desired depth, allowing the line for the trigger to remain slack at all times. When the desired depth is reached, pull the trigger line until taut; and

- Release the trigger line and retrieve the sampler. Transfer the sample to the sample container by pulling on the trigger.

7.2.3 Dip Sampler

A dip sampler is useful for situations in which a sample is to be recovered from an outfall pipe, such as through a storm sewer grating, or along a lagoon bank where direct accessibility is limited. The long handle on such a device allows access from a discrete location. The procedure is as follows:

- Assemble the device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions,

- Extend the device to the sample location and collect the sample, and

- Retrieve the sampler.

7.2.4 Direct Method

For streams, rivers, lakes, and other surface waters, the direct method may be utilized to collect water samples from the surface. This method is not to be used for sampling lagoons or other impoundments where contact with contaminants is a concern.

Using adequate protective clothing (i.e., gloves and hip waders), access the sampling station by appropriate means (wading or boat). For shallow stream stations, collect the sample under the water surface pointing the sample container upstream. The container must also be up-

stream of the collector. Avoid disturbing the substrate. For lakes and other impoundments, collect the sample under the water surface avoiding surface debris and the boat wake.

8. Sample Preservation, Containers, Handling, and Storage

Sample preservation, sample containers, sample handling, and sample storage are critical concerns for many types of analyses. Once the analyses to be performed are determined, E & E's SOP on sample packaging and shipping should be consulted to determine the above parameters. This must be completed prior to field sampling.

Once the samples have been collected, the following procedure should be followed:

- Transfer the sample(s) into suitable and labeled sample containers;
- Preserve the sample, if appropriate;
- Cap and put a custody seal on the container, package appropriately, and place in an iced cooler if required;
- Record all pertinent data in the field logbook and on a field data sheet;
- Complete chain-of-custody record and sample analysis request form;
- Attach custody seals to cooler prior to shipment; and
- Decontaminate all sampling equipment prior to the collection of additional samples.

9. Calculations

This procedure does not involve specific calculations.

10. Quality Assurance

There are no specific quality assurance (QA) activities that apply to the implementation of these procedures. However, the following general QA procedures apply:

- All data must be documented on field data sheets or within field or site logbooks;
- All instrumentation must be operated in accordance with operating instructions as supplied by the manufacturer unless otherwise specified in the work plan. Equipment

checkout and calibration activities must occur prior to sampling or operation and must be documented; and

- All deliverables will receive a peer review prior to release.

11. Data Validation

The data generated will be reviewed according to the QA considerations listed in Section 9.

12. References

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1991, *Compendium of ERT Surface Water and Sediment Sampling Procedures*, Interim Final, OSWER Directive 9360.4-03.

_____, 1984, *Characterization of Hazardous Waste Sites - A Methods Manual: Volume II, Available Sampling Methods*, (2nd ed.), EPA/600/4-84-076.

U.S. Geological Survey, 1977, *National Handbook on Recommended Methods for Water Data Acquisition, Office of Water Data Coordination, Reston, Virginia*.